

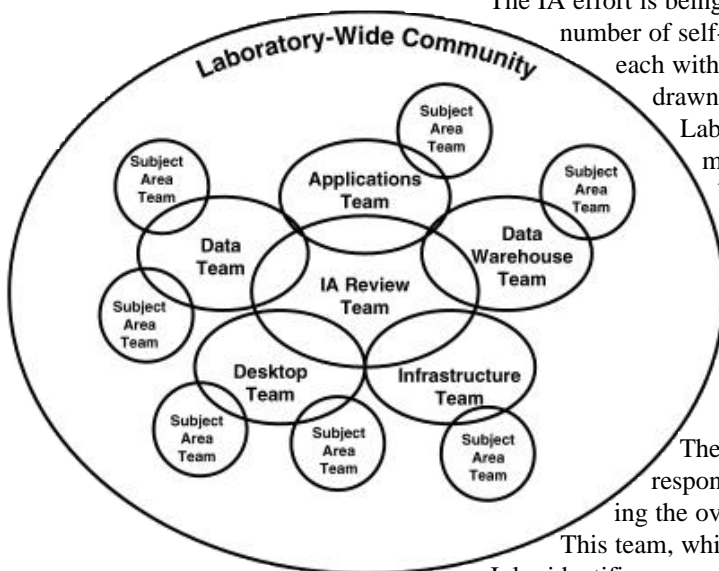


Information Architecture Teams Forming

If you would like to participate in the development of guidelines and standards for the Laboratory's information architecture (IA), the time to get involved is now. Phase Two of the IA project, which started in June, has been rapidly picking up speed with the formation of standards development teams.

As discussed in previous issues of *BITS*, the objective of an IA is to provide a framework for overall planning and coordination of computing, information, and communications activities. Earlier this year, the Laboratory Leadership Council (LLC) approved a set of 20 high-level principles to guide the IA. Part of the current IA effort is to develop guidelines and standards—specific instructions for implementing the principles. (For details about the IA standards development process, see the August and September 1994 issues of *BITS*.)

The IA effort is being performed by a number of self-directed teams, each with membership drawn from the Laboratory-wide community (as illustrated below).



IA Project Team Structure

The IA review team is responsible for coordinating the overall IA effort.

This team, which was formed in July, identifies general areas where standards are needed, charts standards development teams to address those areas, and reviews the work of the standards development teams.

Each standards development team is responsible for investigating issues relat-

ed to its area, surveying user needs and available technologies, and recommending guidelines and standards to the IA review team. As it deems appropriate, each of these teams can also generate additional teams to focus on specific areas.

There are currently five standards development teams that have been chartered by the IA review team:

- **Applications**
- **Data**
- **Data Warehouse**
- **Desktop**
- **Infrastructure**

The scope of work for each team is discussed on the following page.

Although these teams have already started, their work is still in the early stages and there is still time to join them.

Indeed, because the success of the IA effort depends on the active participation of a wide range of people, the IA review team encourages you to join.

If you see a particular area of interest, please contact the leader for that team. If you would like more general information about the IA project, please contact one of the project's co-leaders: Diane Weir (DDCIC, 7-9337, drw@lanl.gov) and Karl-Heinz Winkler (DDCIC, 5-5530, khw@lanl.gov).

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IA Standards Development Teams



Applications Team

Scope of Work: The IA applications team addresses issues related to software applications systems developed at the Laboratory for internal Laboratory use. Some specific areas covered by this team are

- *legacy system access*
- *on-line forms*
- *standards for client/server applications*
- *usability and user interfaces*
- *standards for "groupware" applications*

*Team Leader: Gerald Reisz
(CIC-12, 5-2468, greisz@lanl.gov).*

Data Team

Scope of Work: The IA data team addresses issues related to Laboratory-wide data management, format, and interchange. Some specific areas covered by this team are

- *Laboratory corporate information directory (LCID)*
- *geographical information systems (GIS)*
- *data interchange*
- *Laboratory information policy*

*Team Leader: Fred Montoya
(CIC-12, 5-0912, montoya_frederic_d@lanl.gov).*

Data Warehouse Team

Scope of Work: A data warehouse is a mechanism for improving access to information by consolidating the storage of that information in a central place and consistent format. By creating an integrated library of historical information, the data warehouse can ensure that information is more quickly, easily, and consistently available. Some specific areas covered by this team are

- *data warehouse strategies*
- *data warehouse standards*
- *data warehouse processes*
- *information priorities*
- *data warehouse pilot project*

*Team Leader: Steve Blair
(NIS-3, 5-5895, sgblair@lanl.gov).*

Desktop Team

Scope of Work: The IA desktop team is responsible for developing guidelines and standards for desktop tools for the Laboratory as a whole. The goal is interoperability, which will enable Laboratory citizens (i.e., Laboratory employees and contractors) to share information in native electronic form, to collaborate more effectively in problem solving, and to produce results that are compatible and consistent. Some specific areas covered by this team are

- *establishment of an acceptable set of standard multiplatform tools to improve information flow across the Laboratory*

- *identification of acceptable processes that will*

—formalize the implementation and continuation of desktop standards, and

—foster an environment that encourages Laboratory-wide participation

- *collaboration with other teams in areas where desktop product availability affects the selection of technical standards (E-mail, encryption, etc.)*

*Team Leader: Frank Bobrowicz
(CIC-2, 5-5531, fxb@lanl.gov).*

Infrastructure Team

Scope of Work: The IA infrastructure team addresses issues related to providing the physical connectivity and other infrastructure needed for easy, seamless access to information, services, and products. Some specific areas covered by this team are

- *E-mail services*
- *encryption and digital signatures*
- *automated desktop backups*
- *LAN topology*
- *LAN management standards*
- *a strategy for services in the secure partition*
- *provision of access to Gopher, Mosaic, and the World Wide Web*

*Team Leader: Doug Gatchell
(CIC-5, 7-5119, dgg@lanl.gov).*